

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

ANTHONY WILSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

OFFICER KELLY #19397, OFFICER
LOFGREN #3600, and the CITY OF
CHICAGO,

Defendants.

FILED: JULY 19, 2008
08 cv 4103
No. JUDGE LEFKOW
MAGISTRATE JUDGE BROWN
JH

COMPLAINT AT LAW

NOW COMES the PLAINTIFF, by and through Horwitz, Richardson, & Baker LLC., and pursuant to this Complaint at Law, states the following against the above named Defendants, to wit OFFICER KELLY #19397, OFFICER LOFGREN #3600, (hereinafter, the “DEFENDANT OFFICERS”), and the CITY OF CHICAGO.

JURISDICTION

1. The jurisdiction of the court is invoked pursuant to the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1983; the Judicial Code, 28 U.S.C. §1331 and §1343(a); the Constitution of the United States; and this Court’s supplementary jurisdiction powers.

PARTIES

2. PLAINTIFF is a resident of the State of Illinois and of the United States.

3. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS were at all times relevant hereto employed by and acting on behalf of the CITY OF CHICAGO.

4. The CITY OF CHICAGO is a duly incorporated municipal corporation and is the employer and principal of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS as well as the other officers and/or employees referred to in this Complaint. At all times material to this Complaint, the DEFENDANT OFFICERS were acting under color of state law, ordinance and/or regulation, statutes, custom and usages of the CITY OF CHICAGO.

FACTS

5. On or about September 5, 2007, some or all of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS were engaged in an unreasonable seizure of the PLAINTIFF.

6. Specifically, on or about September 5, 2007 at approximately 9:30 p.m., in the vicinity of 5236 S. Morgan St., Chicago, Illinois, some or all of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS arrested and charged the PLAINTIFF with Unlawful Possession of 2.5 grams to 10 grams of Cannabis notwithstanding the fact that on September 5, 2007 the PLAINTIFF had not possessed 2.5 grams to 10 grams of Cannabis. This conduct violated the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

7. On or about September 5, 2007, PLAINTIFF did not obstruct justice, resist arrest and/or batter and/or assault any of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS.

8. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS charged and/or participated in the charging of PLAINTIFF with criminal activity, and arrested, participated in the arrest and/or failed to prevent the arrest of the PLAINTIFF notwithstanding the fact that the DEFENDANT OFFICERS failed to observe and/or learn that PLAINTIFF had committed criminal activity of any sort. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS did not have probable cause to believe that criminal activity took place relative to the PLAINTIFF.

9. On September 5, 2007, PLAINTIFF had not committed an act contrary to the laws of the State of Illinois.

10. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of the aforesaid acts or omissions of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS, PLAINTIFF was caused to suffer damages.

11. On or about September 5, 2007, the DEFENDANT OFFICERS were on duty at all times relevant to this Complaint and were duly appointed police officers for the CITY OF CHICAGO. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS engaged in the conduct complained of, on said date, in the course and scope of employment and while on duty. This action is being brought with regard to the individual capacity of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS.

12. Upon information and belief, OFFICER KELLY #19397, on September 5, 2007, came into physical contact with PLAINTIFF.

13. Upon information and belief, OFFICER LOFGREN #3600, on September 5, 2007, came into physical contact with PLAINTIFF.

CONSPIRACY

14. Some or all of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS conspired to cause damage to PLAINTIFF in the following manner:

- a. agreeing to falsely arrest and/or falsely institute criminal charges/proceedings against the PLAINTIFF;
- b. agreeing not to report each other after falsely arresting and/or charging PLAINTIFF; and
- c. generating false documentation to cover-up for their own and each other's misconduct.

15. In connection with the above conspiracy, the DEFENDANT OFFICERS specifically engaged in communication on or about September 5, 2007, whereby the DEFENDANT OFFICERS agreed to facilitate, engage in and support the activity which occurred in connection

with the allegations immediately above. As a result of this conspiracy, the DEFENDANT OFFICERS by and through their conduct, proximately caused PLAINTIFF to, *inter alia*, suffer injury, be charged with criminal allegations, incur financial loss and suffer emotionally.

EQUAL PROTECTION

16. The actions of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS, in engaging in the above referenced cover-up, which led to the generation of false documentation and criminal charges to be lodged against PLAINTIFF, demonstrate that the DEFENDANT OFFICERS failed in their duty to enforce the laws equally and fairly towards the PLAINTIFF, therefore violating the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

17. In connection with the Equal Protection Claim, PLAINTIFF is a member of a protected class (African American) and PLAINTIFF was treated differently by the DEFENDANT OFFICERS as a result. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS acted with discriminatory intent by treating PLAINTIFF differently, trying to cause further injury to PLAINTIFF by illegally generating false evidence against and criminally charging PLAINTIFF, specifically due to the status of PLAINTIFF as an African American.

18. In the alternative, with regard to an Equal Protection Claim, PLAINTIFF was a "Class of One." In that regard, PLAINTIFF was treated with ill will and/or discriminated against with no rational basis. PLAINTIFF was intentionally treated differently as a result of having a potential claim and witnessing police misconduct attributable to the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS acted with discriminatory intent by treating PLAINTIFF differently and trying to cause further injury to PLAINTIFF by generating false evidence against PLAINTIFF. Further, PLAINTIFF was similarly situated to other individuals involved in

incidents with police officers that did not have false evidence and/or documentation created against them.

SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS REGARDING EQUAL PROTECTION CLASS OF ONE
(*ALTERNATIVE PLEADING*)

19. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS, each of them, have arrested over 20 individuals prior to the arrest of the PLAINTIFF.

20. On at least 20 occasions prior to September 5, 2007 the DEFENDANT OFFICERS, each of them, have not falsified police reports.

21. On at least 20 occasions prior to September 5, 2007 the DEFENDANT OFFICERS, each of them, have not partaken in, or contributed to, the falsification of police reports.

22. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS, each of them, have been trained, prior to September 5, 2007, that upon the signing of a criminal complaint, there is a strong likelihood that a criminal action will commence against the party against whom the allegations are submitted in the criminal complaint.

23. OFFICER KELLY #19397, on at least 20 occasions prior to and/or after September 5, 2007, has arrested individuals and has not falsified information contained within a police report with regard to the arrest.

24. OFFICER KELLY #19397, on at least 20 occasions prior to and/or after September 5, 2007, has signed criminal complaints and has not falsified information contained within said charging instruments.

25. On September 5, 2007 there was no reasonable reason for OFFICER KELLY #19397 to falsify a police report and/or criminal complaint with respect to PLAINTIFF.

26. OFFICER LOFGREN #3600, on at least 20 occasions prior to and/or after September 5, 2007, has arrested individuals and has not falsified information contained within a police report with regard to the arrest.

27. OFFICER LOFGREN #3600, on at least 20 occasions prior to and/or after September 5, 2007, has signed criminal complaints and has not falsified information contained within said charging instruments.

28. On September 5, 2007 there was no reasonable reason for OFFICER LOFGREN #3600 to falsify a police report and/or criminal complaint with respect to PLAINTIFF.

COUNT I
§1983 False Arrest

29. PLAINTIFF re-alleges paragraphs 1 – 28 as though fully set forth herein.

30. The actions of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS caused the arrest of the PLAINTIFF without probable cause to believe that PLAINTIFF committed criminal activity. Therefore, the conduct of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS was in violation of the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

31. The aforementioned actions of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS were the direct and proximate cause of the Constitutional violations set forth above.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF demands compensatory damages from the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands punitive damages, costs and attorneys' fees against the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands whatever additional relief this Court deems equitable and just.

COUNT II
False Arrest – State Claim

32. PLAINTIFF re-alleges paragraphs 1 – 28 as though fully set forth herein.

33. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS arrested PLAINTIFF without probable cause to believe that PLAINTIFF committed criminal activity. The conduct of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS was in violation of the Constitution to the State of Illinois as well as Illinois law.

34. The aforementioned actions of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS were the direct and proximate cause of the violations set forth above.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF demands compensatory damages from the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands punitive damages and costs against the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands whatever additional relief this Court deems equitable and just.

COUNT III
Malicious Prosecution - State Claim

35. PLAINTIFF re-alleges paragraphs 1 – 28 as though fully set forth herein.

36. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS alleged that PLAINTIFF violated the laws of the State of Illinois. These allegations commenced or continued a criminal proceeding against PLAINTIFF.

37. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS engaged in this effort without probable cause.

38. The underlying criminal charges were ultimately resolved in favor of PLAINTIFF.

39. The underlying criminal charges were resolved in a manner indicative of innocence.

40. The aforementioned actions were the direct and proximate cause of the violations of Illinois State Law, as set forth above.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF demands compensatory damages from the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands punitive damages and costs against the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands whatever additional relief this Court deems equitable and just.

COUNT IV
§ 1983 Conspiracy Claim

41. PLAINTIFF re-alleges paragraphs 1 – 28 as though fully set forth herein.

42. The aforementioned actions of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS were the direct and proximate cause of the violations of the United States Constitution, *inter alia* the Fourth Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF demands compensatory damages from the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands punitive damages, costs and attorneys' fees against the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands whatever additional relief this Court deems equitable and just.

COUNT V
Conspiracy Claim – State Law

43. PLAINTIFF re-alleges paragraphs 1 – 28 as though fully set forth herein.

44. The aforementioned actions were the direct and proximate cause of the violations of the Constitution of the State of Illinois and Illinois law.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF demands compensatory damages from the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands punitive damages and costs against the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands whatever additional relief this Court deems equitable and just.

COUNT VI
§ 1983 Equal Protection – Member of a Protected Class

45. PLAINTIFF re-alleges paragraphs 1 – 28 as though fully set forth herein.

46. The actions of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS violated the Equal Protection clause to the United States Constitution.

47. The aforementioned actions of said DEFENDANT OFFICERS were the direct and proximate cause of the constitutional violations set forth above.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF demands compensatory damages from the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands punitive damages, costs and attorneys' fees against the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands whatever additional relief this Court deems equitable and just.

COUNT VII
§ 1983 Equal Protection – Class of One

48. PLAINTIFF re-alleges paragraphs 1 – 28 as though fully set forth herein.

49. The actions of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS violated the Equal Protection clause to the United States Constitution.

50. The aforementioned actions of said DEFENDANT OFFICERS were the direct and proximate cause of the constitutional violations set forth above.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF demands compensatory damages from the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands punitive damages, costs and attorneys' fees against the DEFENDANT OFFICERS. PLAINTIFF also demands whatever additional relief this Court deems equitable and just.

COUNT VIII
745 ILCS 10/9-102 Claim Against the CITY OF CHICAGO

51. PLAINTIFF re-alleges paragraphs 1 – 28 as though fully set forth herein.

52. Defendant CITY OF CHICAGO is the employer of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS alleged above.

53. The DEFENDANT OFFICERS, as alleged above, committed the acts under color of law and in the scope of employment of the CITY OF CHICAGO.

WHEREFORE, should the DEFENDANT OFFICERS be found liable for any of the alleged counts in this cause, PLAINTIFF demands that, pursuant to 745 ILCS 10/9-102, the CITY OF CHICAGO pay PLAINTIFF any judgment obtained against the DEFENDANT OFFICERS as a result of this Complaint.

COUNT IX
Supplementary Claim for *Respondeat Superior*

54. PLAINTIFF re-alleges paragraphs 1 – 28 as though fully set forth herein.

55. The aforesaid acts of the DEFENDANT OFFICERS were in the scope of employment and therefore the Defendant CITY OF CHICAGO, as principal, is liable for the actions of its agent(s) under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

WHEREFORE should the DEFENDANT OFFICERS be found liable for any state claims alleged herein, Plaintiff demands judgment against the CITY OF CHICAGO and such other additional relief, as this Court deems equitable and just.

JURY DEMAND

56. Plaintiff demands trial by jury.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Blake Horwitz
Attorney for the Plaintiff
Blake Horwitz

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